

Excavation Summary for Extra-Housepit Excavation 21

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Extra-Housepit Excavation 21 (EHPE 21) is located south of the main site, overlooking the Fraser Canyon (This Volume, Preface, **Fig. 1**). Excavations were undertaken in order to determine the function and, if possible, the age of the feature.

Indications were that one pit (Stratum I) was dug into a previous pit. This was visible in the stratigraphy of the west wall (**Fig. 1**). Stratum II consists of the earlier pit. Material found in context in Stratum II below the bottom of pit 1 included 1 stone flake, one salmon vertebrae, and one horse foot. Two points from Stratum I (one Kamloops side notched and one Kamloops multi notched point) appear to have been dropped or placed where they were found but the possibility that they were part of the backfill for pit 1 should not be discounted. An analysis of cut marks on the horse foot may help clarify this. The cut marks appear to have been made by a metal and not a stone blade. Therefore, the points may have been part of the back fill.

Given the depth of this feature, and the lack of charcoal, FCR, and bone, the excavation results point to a cache pit function. It is interesting to note that the pit was located on the edge of a ridge, a somewhat unusual location for a cache pit. Snow in the winter, however, would be blown off the top of the pit and therefore maintain year round accessibility. The presence of a Kamloops point and cut marks made by a metal tool indicate that the pit was used within the last 250 years. Under microscopic examination, the cut marks had clean v-shaped features. These marks were fine "hairline" cuts with none of the ragged edges or interior parallel lines

that characterize stone tool or tooth marks. These marks also occur in locations logical for disarticulation cuts.

Figures

Figure 1: Surface plan and cross section of EHPE 21.

Extra Housepit Excavation 21 Square A - West Wall Profile

Figure 1. Surface plan and cross section of EHPE 21.

